

## ANIMALS' WANDERINGS.

### Rats the Most Migratory—Lemmings Race With Death.

The fable of the country mouse and the town mouse has a foundation in fact. Mice occasionally migrate in large numbers when food grows scarce and travel considerable distances to fresh houses. Farmers in a part of Perthshire had a good reason to become aware of this fact when a couple of years ago vast swarms of mice invaded their cornfields at harvest time.

But the mouse only travels when it has to. The rat, on the contrary, seems to take a yearly outing in very much the same fashion as do human beings. Rats are the most migratory creatures in the world. Whole troops of rats leave the towns at the end of summer and spend a month or two in the country, apparently in order to enjoy the change of food, which the country affords at that time of the year in the way of fresh fruit and grain. Before the cold weather sets in they are all back in their old quarters.

Reindeer migrate with the same regularity as swallows. They move south when winter sets in, but as soon as ever the snow begins to melt they travel steadily north, sometimes for as much as a thousand miles.

To end a holiday by deliberate suicide is so strange a phenomenon that for a long time naturalists looked upon the stories of the migration of the lemmings as an improbable fiction. Yet the facts are beyond dispute. At irregular intervals these rat-like creatures start out from their homes in the fastnesses of northern Scandinavia in huge droves, numbering tens of thousands, and travel steadily southward. Death pursues them in a hundred forms. Hawks and other birds of prey hover above them. Foxes, wolves and man decimate them. Thousands are drowned in rivers. Yet the rest struggle on until they reach the sea. They do not stop. They plunge in, swim out and struggle on until at last their strength fails and they drown. Not one ever returns from this journey of death.—London Answers.

### POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

When an attorney offers to settle, listen.

Some men try to get business by fighting people.

The successful business man is one who knows what people will not do.

When a man gets discouraged and quits, the doctor says afterward that that was just the time when he should have held on.

When one of the town boys marries an out of town girl it creates more "feeling" than when a town girl imports a husband.

When a man wants to sharpen a knife he hunts up a whetstone. When a woman wants to sharpen a knife she takes a few swipes on a crock.

It often happens that the woman who has a reputation far and wide as a judge of a good bargain seems to fall down when she picks out a husband.—Atchison Globe.

### Medieval Monarchs.

Almost every medieval monarch claimed the whole or a part of the dominions of almost every other and insisted on inserting his claim in his list of official titles. In treatises and all official documents the whole list was religiously copied, and as it often happened that the two negotiating monarchs had some of the same titles it became usual to insert a clause in the list, non praefudicando, in order to indicate that, no matter how absurd, inappropriate or untrue were the titles, they were understood to be inserted because they pleased the monarch who claimed them, that they did not confer a valid claim, and so no harm was likely to result from their use.

### The Way to Dress.

"Now, then," said Mrs. Polk after dinner, "how shall I dress for the theater this evening?"

"In time to see part of the first act, dear," replied her husband mildly.—Exchange.

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## HE LOVED THE THEATER.

### Farces and Clowns Were the Joy of George III. of England.

Few men of any rank or time have ever derived so much unaffected pleasure from the theater as George III. In fact, in the words of a contemporary, it was "as good as a play to hear the royal laughter and note the genuine enjoyment of his majesty." "He is said," Thackeray wrote, "not to have cared for Shakespeare or tragedy much. Farces and pantomimes were his joy, and especially when the clown swallowed a carrot or a string of sausages he would laugh so outrageously that the lovely princess by his side would have to say, 'My gracious, monarch, do compose yourself!' And he continued to laugh and at the very smallest farces as long as his poor wits were left him."

So frequent were George's visits to the theater that "his face was the most familiar in London to playgoers, who took no more notice of his presence than if he had been a simple citizen, except when his boisterous laughter drew attention to him and started others laughing out of irresistible infection." As familiar a spectacle as that of his majesty purple and rolling with laughter was to see him sleeping as peacefully as a child between the acts.

So partial was he to actors that he permitted and even smiled at liberties which he would have resented in any one else. On one occasion, when Parsons was playing in "The Siege of Calais," the actor walked toward the box in which George was sitting and addressed him in the words of his part: "An the king were here and did not admire my scaffold I would say: 'Hang him! He has no taste.'" a piece of impudence which threw his majesty into a fit of laughter.—London Tit-Bits.

### PRONUNCIATION.

Read Over This Test and Then Consult Your Dictionary.

The following rather curious piece of composition was placed upon the blackboard at a certain teachers' institute and a prize of a dictionary offered to any person who could read it and pronounce every word correctly. The book was not carried off, as twelve was the lowest number of mistakes in pronunciation made:

"A sacrilegious son of Belial who has suffered from bronchitis, having exhausted his finances in order to make good the deficit, resolved to ally himself to a comely, lenient and docile young lady of the Malay or Caucasian race. He accordingly purchased a calliope and coral necklace of a chameleon hue and securing a suit of rooms at a principal hotel he engaged the head waiter as his coadjutor. He then dispatched a letter of the most unexceptional calligraphy extant, inviting the young lady to a matinee. She revolted at the idea, refused to consider herself sacrificable to his desires and sent a polite note of refusal, on receiving which he procured a carbine and bowie knife, said that he would not now forge fetters hymeneal with the queen and went to an isolated spot, severed his jugular vein and discharged the contents of the carbine into his abdomen. The debris was removed by the coroner."

The mistakes in pronunciation were made on the following words: Sacrilegious, Belial, bronchitis, exhausted, finances, deficit, comely, lenient, docile, Malay, calliope, chameleon, suit, coadjutor, calligraphy, matinee, sacrificable, carbine, hymeneal, isolated, jugular and debris.

### Violated the Rules.

Assistant—Here's an account from your tailor among this morning's letters. He writes on the back that he wants a settlement at once. Editor—Return it with a printed slip stating that communications written on both sides of the paper are unavailable.

### An Inherited Quality.

Mike (the cop)—Faith, an' phwat an old fashioned kid that is! Katy (the nurse)—Shure it is. An' no wonder that she is, fer some av her ancestors lived nearly 400 years ago.—Judge.